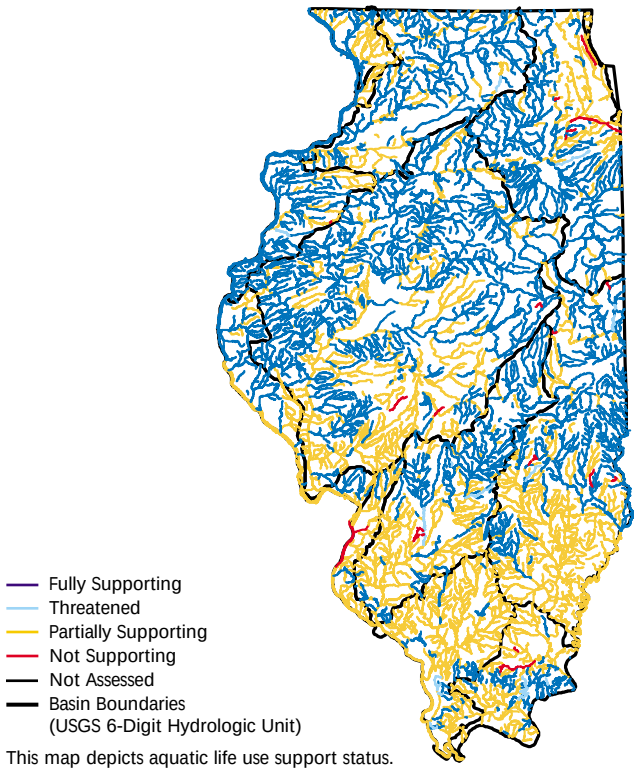
Illinois



This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

For a copy of the Illinois 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) reported that over 55% of assessed stream miles fully support aquatic life use, which the state considers the single best indicator of overall stream conditions. The major causes of impairment in Illinois' rivers include nutrients, siltation, habitat/flow alteration, organic enrichment/dissolved oxygen depletion, metals, and suspended solids. Major sources include agriculture, point sources, hydrological/habitat modification, urban runoff, and resource extraction.

Fifty-two percent of Illinois' inland lake acres fully support aquatic life uses, while another 46% partially support this use, and 3% do not support aquatic life use. The major causes of impairment to Illinois' inland lakes include nutrients, siltation, suspended solids, and organic enrichment/dissolved oxygen depletion. Major sources include agriculture, contaminated sediments (in-place contaminants such as sediment, or phosphorus attached to particles), and hydrological/habitat modification.

Water quality continues to improve in the Illinois portion of Lake Michigan. Trophic status has improved from mesotrophic/eutrophic conditions in the 1970s to oligotrophic conditions today.

Illinois did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

Ground water quality is generally good, but past and present activities contaminate ground water in isolated areas. Major sources of ground water contamination include agricultural chemical operations, fertilizer and pesticide applications, above- and belowground storage tanks, septic systems, manufacturing/repair shops, surface impoundments, and wastepiles.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

The IEPA recently directed program resources toward a watershed-based framework to effectively protect and restore natural resources. This comprehensive approach will focus on the total spectrum of water

resource issues, emphasizing involvement of citizens and the regulated community. The IEPA has restructured its program activities using a priority watershed management approach.

Illinois established a Great Lakes Program Office in FY93 to oversee all Lake Michigan programs on a multimedia basis. Activities include promotion of pollution prevention for all sources of toxics in all media (such as air and water).

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The IEPA has maintained a comprehensive surface water monitoring and assessment program since its inception in 1970. Monitoring activities focus on water and sediment chemistry as well as on physiological and biological data (e.g., aquatic invertebrates, fisheries, and habitat). Data from more than 4,000 stations have been used in the assessment of surface water quality conditions. In addition, over 600 volunteers participate in citizen monitoring of over 300 lakes as part of IEPA's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, which has been incorporated into the state's water quality assessments.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.
[a] A subset of Illinois' designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.
[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Illinois

Designated Use[a]	Total Miles/Acres/Shore Miles Assessed	Percent: Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 87,110)[b]						
	28,448	55	1	43	1	-
	3,779	81	0	0	19	-
	3,502	23	0	22	55	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 309,340)						
	188,103	42	10	46	3	-
	127,814	77	0	14	9	-
	188,277	9	12	47	32	-
Great Lakes (Total Shore Miles = 63)						
	63	0	100	0	0	0
	63	0	0	0	100	0
	63	79	0	21	0	0

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.